

"The hammock (kíza) is the principal article of furniture in every Siriono hut. Hammocks are made by the women from string twined from bark fibers of the ambaibo tree and are very durable, [12] lasting several years with the roughest treatment. In making a hammock a woman first digs two holes in the ground with her digging stick, as far apart as the length of the hammock is to be. Two posts about 5 or 6 feet long are then planted in the holes. The woman ties one end of her ball of string, previously twined, to the bottom of the post on her right, passes the string around the post to her left and back on the far side around the post on her right, and so on, continuing these winds, which are about one-fourth of an inch apart, up the poles until she calculates that the desired width of the hammock has been reached. The resulting warp strings form two series of parallel lines, one at the front and the other at the back of the posts.

The weft strings are made of the same material as the warp strings, but are finer twined than the latter. They are applied from bottom to top. The weaver places a weft string around the bottom warp string at the front of the posts and midway between them. She holds the warp string with her left hand and pulls both ends of the weft string tightly with the other hand to form two weft strands of equal length. She then takes the under strand in her left hand, crosses it over the upper strand which is held in her right hand, and then transfers each strand to the opposite hand, after which she pulls the twist tightly around the warp string. She then takes the first back warp string, pulls it over until

1: Holmberg--11-12
116, 352, 286

(1941-42) 1950

Siriono-2

it rests on the twist formed around the first front warp string, and gives the weft strands a second twist. She continues alternately to gather up the warp strings from front to back until all of them are held in place by a weft string, the ends of which are finally tied into a square knot at the top of the hammock. Usually about a dozen weft strings, placed about 6 inches apart, suffice for a hammock. After they have been applied, ambaibo bark fiber is bound around the hammock about 4 inches from each end, and it is then ready for hanging.

Hammocks vary in size, but one shared by husband and wife will be about 6 feet in length and about 4 feet in width. It usually takes a woman a full day to make a hammock, once the string has been prepared. Hammocks are almost always carried along on expeditions or hunting trips, but in case a person gets caught overnight in the forest without his hammock, a rude one is sometimes fashioned of liana in the manner described above."

1: Holmberg--12
116, 854, 286

(1941-42) 1950

Siriono

"Baby slings (erénda) are twined by the women in exactly the same way as hammocks, the only difference being that they are more often made of cotton than of bark-fiber string and that all the front warp strings are held together by one series of weft strings while those at the back are held together by one series of weft strings while those at the back are held together by another. During pregnancy a woman usually twines a new sling so as to have it ready when her infant is born, for a new sling is made for every child. Slings are about 3 feet long and 2 feet wide."

1: Holmberg--78-79
116, 286, 857

(1941-42) 1950

Siriono

"Like young boys, girls, too, through play, get [79] an early exposure to some of the household tasks which they have to perform when they are adults. As the bow symbolizes the hunting role of the boy, so the spindle symbolizes the spinning role of the girl. Before a girl is 3 years of age her father has made her a miniature spindle with which she practices the art of spinning as she matures."

3: Métraux--113
116, 286

(no date) 1942

Siriono

"The Siriono did not use a true weave, but twined the fabrics of their hammocks and baby slings."

"Two posts are hammered down into the ground at an interval equalling the intended length of the hammock. The waxed cord is stretched back and forth between the poles several times, forming two vertical planes of cords which are subsequently brought into one plane when the transverse, thinner cords are twisted in. The latter cords--those used as "weft"--are made of fibres or cotton but not impregnated with iriti [MPK: a wax-like substance] and are therefore more supple, and woolly. The weft cords, when fibres are used are z-twisted. When cotton[sic] is used the weft cords are s-twisted and the strands z-twined. In both cases the weft cords are woven in by using s-twisting. To the direction of the twist I shall recur later. The technique employed in the interweaving of the transverse cords will be apparent from the detailed figure 17 B. The terminal loops of the hammock by which it is suspended, are wound with string in the way seen in fig. 17C. In the hammock illustrated in fig. 13 [MPK: Fig. 17A, not reproduced for this file.] there are two transverse "weft"[52] cords. They are, however, as a rule greater in number, but nevertheless spread very far apart, on account of which the Siriono hammock has as appearance of inadequacy and primitiveness. Occasionally the "weft" is double, and the two cords are then twisted in in the same way as seen in fig. 17B."



B



C

Fig. 17. Siriono hammock rope.

4: Ryden--54
116, 286, 171, 513

(1939) 1941

Siriono

"As regards the technique employed in the making of the Siriono hammock, this technique is the one most generally used in South America (NORDENSKIÖLD 1924, p.29) and everywhere employed in the making of both hammocks and baby-slings as well as other articles, e.g. honey-presses in the Chaco, satchels, etc."

"In the manufacture of their baby-slugs, agenéna, the Siriono use practically the same method as in the case of their hammocks. Here too, the work is quite naturally in the hands of the women, and the slug is prepared against the birth of the expected child. Its material is cotton thread. In shape it is, as seen in fig. 18 [MPK: not reproduced for this file.], cylindrical, in that the merging of the two vertical thread planes into one has been omitted at the interlacing of the transverse cords. Both the cords forming the "warp" and the "weft", in the baby-slug, are s-spun twisted and consist of two z-spun strands. The "weft" is twisted into the warp while being s-twisted. The cord [56] that is used in making baby-slugs is dyed red with urucu before weaving is begun. No explanation of the reason for this could be got from the Indians, but most likely some magic conception lies at the bottom of this custom, although by now forgotten, or one that should not be revealed to outsiders."

5: Radwan--294
116, 286, 352, 415

T-3

(1928?) 1928

Siriono

The household utensils of the Sirionos are of the simplest sort. They consist of some black pots, hammocks, carrying baskets, woven pieces, and pipes. The hammocks of knotted ropes, serve as beds. Often, for lack of space, they are hung above one another. In some pictures, one can clearly recognize the weaving stick and the different types of carrying baskets.